

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 045201

17

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APPROVED BY NEA:SSOBER

S/S:O T. HOGANSON

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R 280103Z FEB 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KABUL

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 045201

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AF, PK

SUBJECT: AFGHAN-PAK RELATIONS AND AJMAL KHATTAK

REF: (A) KABUL 1088; (B) LONDON 2896

AS STATED SEPTTEL, WE APPRECIATE THE EMBASSY'S REPORT ON THE CALL OF AJMAL KHATTAK. WHILE THE CONTACT WITH KHATTAK HAS THE OBVIOUS ADVANTAGE OF GETTING FIRST-HAND VERSION OF HIS ACTIVITIES AND VIEWS, THERE ARE RISKS TO THE USG IN CONTINUED CONTACT THAT OUTWEIGH THIS ADVANTAGE. KHATTAK PRESUMABLY SEES UTILITY IN CONTACTS WITH FOREIGN MISSIONS AS ENDOWING HIM AND HIS CAUSE WITH AN AURA OF LEGITIMACY. WE WOULD NOT WANT BY CONTINUING CONTACT TO CONVEY TO KHATTAK, TO THE GOP OR TO THE GOA ANY SENSE THAT WE ENDORSE OR EVEN SYMPATHIZE WITH HIS ROLE OR POINT OF VIEW. CONTINUING CONTACT COULD ALSO TROUBLE OUR RELATIONS WITH THE GOP AND POSSIBLY RAISE A QUESTION IN THE MINDS OF GOA OFFICIALS AS TO THE ULTIMATE STRENGTH OF OUR SUPPORT FOR PAKISTAN'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY. FOR THESE REASONS, WE HAVE CON-
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PAGE 02 STATE 045201

CLUDED THAT YOU SHOULD AVOID FURTHER MEETINGS WITH KHATTAK.

KISSINGER

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